

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7122

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16943

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: ERNST NEIZVESTNIY'S PRESENT SITUATION

REF: MOSCOW 12399

1. SOVIET SCULPTOR ERNST NEIZVESTNIY TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 24 THAT HE WAS RECENTLY BECOME AWARE OF A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN WHAT HE CALLS THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO "MAKE HIM A NON-PERSON." HE SAYS THAN AN EXHIBIT AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNION OF ARCHITECTS OF THE USSR DEVOTED TO ASHKHABAD, A CITY IN WHICH HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST THE SCULPTURE, DOES NOT MENTION HIS NAME WHILE GLORIFYING THOSE OF THE ARCHITECTS WITH WHOM HE COLLABORATED. ONE OF THEM, HE SAYS, IS SOON TO RECEIVE A LENIN PRIZE FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN DESIGNING ASHKHABAD. NEIZVESTNIY NOTES BITTERLY THAT THE CENTERPIECE OF THE EXHIBIT IS WHAT HE CALLS ONE OF HIS BEST WORKS AND SAYS THAT HE FEELS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT HIS NAME SHOULD NOWHERE BE FOUND.

2. NEIZVESTNIY SAID THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PRESS COVERAGE HE IS RECEIVING IN THE WEST IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES  
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TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION TO REFUSE HIM PERMISSION

TO LEAVE. HE HAS GIVEN INTERVIEWS TO THE GERMAN TV NETWORKS AND THE ITALIAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HE HAS ALREADY SIGNED A "COUNTER DECLARATION" IN FAVOR OF ANDREY SAKHAROV (MOSCOW 15788), AND HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SIGN OTHER PETITIONS IN FAVOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND AGAINST THE EXCESSES OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

3. IN CONTRAST TO MOST SOVIET DISSIDENTS WHO SEE THE PERIOD FROM NOW UNTIL AFTER THE PARTY CONGRESS AS ONE OF IMMOBILITY, NEIZVESTNIY (WHOSE POLITICAL JUDGEMENT IS NOT ALWAYS ACCURATE) SAYS HE FEELS THAT HE HAS A CHANCE OF BEING LET OUT IF ONLY BECAUSE HE IS MAKING SUCH A PEST OF HIMSELF.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT NEIZVESTNIY WILL EVENTUALLY GET OUT, WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNTIL AFTER THE PARTY CONGRESS HAS TAKEN PLACE AND ITS RESULTS HAVE BEEN DIGESTED BY THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT NEIZVESTNIY'S PRE-CONGRESS ACTIVITIES, IF THEY DO NOT GO BEYOND THOSE ALREADY PLANNED, WILL SIGNIFICANTLY WORSEN HIS CHANCES OF EVENTUAL DEPARTURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

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